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The United States of America



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Has received an application for a patent for a new and useful invention. The title and description of the invention are enclosed. The requirements of law have been complied with, and it has been determined that a patent for the invention shall be granted under the law.

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United States Patent

Grants to the person(s) having title to this patent the right to exclude others from making, using, offering for sale, or selling the invention throughout the United States of America or importing the invention into the United States of America for the term set forth below, subject to the payment of maintenance fees as provided by law.

If this application was filed prior to June 8, 1995, the term of this patent is the longer of seventeen years from the date of grant of this patent or twenty years from the earliest effective U.S. filing date of the application, subject to any statutory extension.

If this application was filed on or after June 8, 1995, the term of this patent is twenty years from the U.S. filing date, subject to any statutory extension. If the application contains a specific reference to an earlier filed application or applications under 35 U.S.C. 120, 121 or 365(c), the term of the patent is twenty years from the date on which the earliest application was filed, subject to any statutory extension.

Bence Lehman

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Candra Morton

Attest



US005790172A

United States Patent [19]

Imanaka

[11] Patent Number: 5,790,172

[45] Date of Patent: Aug. 4, 1998

[54] **SERVER APPARATUS, SUBSCRIBER APPARATUS AND INFORMATION ON DEMAND SYSTEM**

[75] Inventor: Ryoichi Imanaka, Hirakata, Japan

[73] Assignee: Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Ltd., Osaka, Japan

[21] Appl. No.: 503,604

[22] Filed: Jul. 18, 1995

[30] **Foreign Application Priority Data**

Jul. 19, 1994 [JP] Japan 6-166695

[51] Int. CL⁶ H04N 7/16

[52] U.S. Cl. 348/7; 348/3; 348/5; 348/10; 348/12; 455/2; 455/6.2

[58] Field of Search 348/7, 12, 13, 348/10, 11, 1, 2, 3, 5; 455/2, 4.2, 5.1, 6.1, 6.3; 386/83, 94; 380/3, 4, 5; 360/15; H04N 7/16, 6/173

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Primary Examiner—Christopher C. Grant

Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Ratner & Prestia

[57] **ABSTRACT**

An information on demand system provides a user of a terminal (subscriber) information through a network such as CATV such that the user pays an adequate charge to a server (information provider). According to the information on demand system, the received information can be recorded in a recording medium under control of the terminal equipment. Cases in which 1) the subscriber merely watches a program on a television receiver and; 2) the subscriber records the program and watches it by reproducing the recorded information at another time are distinguished and the subscriber is charged a different amount by the server accordingly.

13 Claims, 5 Drawing Sheets

